What is wrong the world today?

Introduction

You should already know all of this.

If you don't, story is… picked up a pamphlet on a train, was filled with crap, and mentions a few of humanities problems.

We discuss them here.

The list of humanities problems is in three parts, put together here as follows…

Part 1. Global Warming, Ozone, War, Drugs, Mental and Social Problems, Injustice, Fraud and Con Artists, Over Population, Natural Disasters (and so on)*.

Part 2. World Food Shortages, Little Rain, Rising Sea Levels, Extinction of Plants and Animals, Daily Disasters, and People Losing Hope.

Part 3. Cosmic Comet or Large Asteroid.

Each of these 'problems' is briefly discussed and, because we felt the tone was, at times, far to serious,** supplemented with additional comments from our experts, and special guest experts.

*The pamphlet said, so there's more and more and more...
**Even preachy, and we hate that. Don't tell us what to do and we won't tell you what to do.

What is wrong the world today?

Part 1

Global Warming

Ok, humanities problems, global warming. Will we leave that one? We could, but we find ourselves saying, "Although…". The pamphlet which all these problems came from does imply that man and computers will not be able to solve this problem, and they don't imply that god can solve this problem, only that god can save you (in fact, they only really imply things, and don't make any solid claims, which is not unusual). It seems to be saying that we can fuck everything up, and then not worry about it because god will save us (if we let god do that, do the right stuff that god wants us to do, which is the stuff that the people that wrote the pamphlet say that god wants us to do). Isn't salvation wonderful. Rape, pillage and burn. You may as well salt the soil. It's all fine, because you can do whatever, without fear or concern, as long as you believe in the right god in the right way, and you believe that the whole world is going to end sometime soon, before the shit really hits the fan.

Sounds like a quick path to ignorance to us.

What do our experts think?

"*Fuck it, we're awesome and if everything else cant be bothered to evolve and keep up in order to survive then, they shouldn't.*"

"*What happens to dinosaurs? They die because they don't change with the climate.*"

"[It] *is the modern day equivalent of nuclear war.*"

What is wrong the world today?

Part 2

Ozone

You didn't know that ozone was a high ranking problem for humanity today? Shame on you. You thought that by not using those CFC's in aerosol cans, you were saving ozone? Or not saving it? Or whatever you thought. Don't you realize how big of a problem this still is? It's ozone people. Ozone is, we are told, one of humanities problems. Deals with that. Process that. Hang on a minute. The previous problem was global warming, weren't we told that our actions were destroying the ozone layer, and that was one of the things causing global warming? What is this all about? We say don't destroy the ozone layer. There is nothing here or in the pamphlet that offers any solutions. It is another case of, fear this problem, you can't do anything about it, neither can god, but god can save you by taking you away. Fuck off. Action, people! Deal with stuff, none of this turning the other cheek.

What do our specialists have to say?

"Ozone or Ozone layer? They're same-same but different. That's all I know, I failed basic science."

"I'm all for cleaning products. I'm not sure how this one is a problem, do they use child labour or something?"

"Gaffa tape always works to cover holes."

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Part 3

War

Despite it being ironic almost every time any human talks about the 'problem', war, it always seems worse coming from religious people. We say, everyone fuck off. If you haven't experienced actual war (and not as someone waging war), we say fuck off. And, for that matter, if you have experienced war, we still say fuck off. War is not a problem that people can solve, it is something that humans do. If you are one of the many people that believe in god or anything similar (we are saying that you are supernaturalists, and we are saying that we are naturalists), then you, by default, believe that war is something that god made people do. You believe that god made people. People do the things that people do, and one of them is war. We believe that people are creatures predisposed to warfare. You want to stop war? Then you need there to be no people, or maybe just one, and even that one would probably end up starting a war with something. Unfortunately, it is what you do. Some people like to draw a good/evil or right/wrong distinction in war. We say fuck off, didn't you hear us say that before? The whole mindset that wants to see conflicts as having a good/evil, a right/wrong, is actually one of the factors that cause war. Everyone are people, they all have more similarities than differences. Most people just want to have enough to survive to the next day, and to be safe and happy. War? Fuck off people. War is YOU.

What about our special experts, what do they say?

"War is humanity's way of guaranteeing conversion to a particular religion. Are you saying religion is a problem?"

"Bring it on right(?) Thin out the ranks."

"Why don't we just kill everybody, and have it over and done with?"

What is wrong the world today?

Part 4

Drugs

Humanities problem? What drugs are we/they talking about? Bad drugs? So what are they? Crystal Meth or Thalidomide? Perhaps they are talking about abuse of drugs. So perhaps they mean alcohol? What the fuck people! We must presume, as all these problems are apparently some of the worst confronting mankind, that they are talking about the really bad drugs. You either know them, or will presume them, or whatever. It is what you do. Of course it is inconceivable that people and computers could solve any drug problems, because some people want to use drugs. Sure, their reasons may not always be good, especially for other people, but come on people, how many people ever make a really good argument about anything? We certainly don't, and we know that you don't (your arguments are shit on shit). Many of the "bad" drugs have been around in various forms for a very long time. Sometimes, for various reasons, people use them. Sometimes people use them a lot. Are the drugs the problem? If you want to deny any personal responsibility, then sure, you can say that the drugs are the problem. But if you say that, then we say fuck off. Just like that. Fuck Off. People need solving, right? Not things. Not effects. Those just are. People use and judge them (often with very broad brushes), and people read and understand them, when, usually, they understand nothing. If you don't like drugs, don't use them. People should help drug users that want help, and it's probably best to leave those that don't want help alone. Teach the young people to think and more things will start to work out. And don't you dare tell us that the young people are being taught to think! They think that thought is something you access with an SMS or google. We say think, make your own decisions, and think. We say that all the time. We really do.

What do our experts have to say?

"All's good in moderation."

"Say no to Coca Cola! Hitler was straight-edge and Sir Churchill was strictly a cigar and whisky man."

"If you're an idiot, then drugs will weed you out and hopefully you'll die in some pathetic way. If you're awesome, then drugs are great fun."

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Part 5

Mental and Social Problems

This is getting really broad now. We haven't been harping on about the similarities between some of these groupings, but mental and social problems, as a problem for humanity, really is very broad. Surely, from the list of humanities problems, most could fall under the banner of Mental and Social Problems. Let's see. Global Warming is, probably, in part a social problem (unless you believe it is a completely natural thing, but still, it's ramifications are still, in part, a social problem). Ozone is the same here as global warming, in part, a social problem. War is a social problem of sorts. Drugs could be considered as both mental and social problems, depending on the situation. Injustice is definitely a social problem, and many that are responsible for injustice could be said to have mental problems. Fraud and con artists are a social problem, often perpetrated on people with some kind of mental problem. Over population is a social problem. World food shortages are a social problem. Finally, people losing hope and cosmic comets are social problems (really). Mental problems are interesting in that they are far more prominent than they used to be. That said, they are, generally, dealt with in a more thoughtful way than they were not all that long ago. It really wasn't that long ago (20th century, people) that, in most countries, all mental problems were solved by locking people in an institution, of some kind or other. All "mental" problems were lumped into one group, whether someone was mentally (or physically) retarded, schizophrenic, brain damaged, alcoholic, whatever. All those not suitable to be in society, locked away. What's the difference now? Diagnosis. Diagnosis has improved (or become far more complex, that is probably a better way to say it than to say it has improved), and treatment is something that is generally regarded as being functional, or potentially function. Mental problems as one of mankind's major problems? Fuck off. Like everything these days, we hear about it more, but is it really more common per capita? Especially when you take into account all the things diagnosed as mental illness these days (some studies have postulated that everyone has some 'mental problems', however minor, that could be diagnosed and treated) that would have been missed or ignored in the past. We repeat… Fuck Off.

We asked our expert specialists what they thought.

"Well you've called them problems, I call them entertainment opportunities. Have you heard the one about the Downer?"

"I have little contact with other people resulting me to consol problems with myself, this only makes it worse."

"Are more then often really societal and governmental problems."

What is wrong the world today?

Part 6

Injustice

Injustice, injustice, injustice. Injustice can be a fairly subjective thing, can't it. We wonder what it is intended on describing in the pamphlet. We wonder what it means here. We choose to take it broadly. All injustice. As we see it, of course! In that sense, we are happy to accept injustice as one of humanities problems, and like war, it truly is a human problem. It is always felt or inflicted by people, whether through the actions or choices of people, or the laws and similar that people create. Like war, injustice isn't going anywhere fast, and in these wonderful times of populist politics for the thoughtless majorities, injustice is likely to be as rife as ever. You want injustice gone? Well, we think that the easiest way would be to get rid of all humans (you could leave one and take a risk, but it would be like war, and that one person would probably still feel injustice).Failing that, maybe people should think more about their actions, about everything. Anyway, what do most people really know of injustice? Even all of those that feel it. We recently heard a woman speaking about the closure of birthing ward at her local hospital. She described it as "the most horrible thing you could do to a person". Sure, closing services that are used and needed is an injustice of sort (kind of a social problem, too,eh?), but to say that it is the most horrible thing… that's kind of sickening, but very human. Swept up in her own perceived problems, and left blinded to bigger problems, and the plight of a great many people. Kind of makes us want to say fuck off again. But we won't

We asked our sexy experts, here's what they said.

"Is a problem for batman and superman and ironman and spiderman to deal with."

"People always use the term "human" when a weakness appears or when a figure heads falls from grace. They say "I'm not made of stone." Then break down and cry… etc."

"… What the fuck? Are you going to bring up "Human Error" as a problem of humanity?".

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Part 7

Fraud and Con Artists

There is a lot of fraud. There are a lot of con artists. Some frauds and con artists are very good. Some of them almost always get away with the fraud or con. Still, there really aren't many frauds or cons that are that good. Most rely on the trusting nature of people, and/or, in a growing number of cases, peoples greed and stupidity. We mean, have you actually read one of those "Nigerian" scams? Or one of the increasing number of lottery prizes you've won (just send USD$100 to Sordid Zine so we can release the funds to you. The money is for administration costs and such like that apply in the country you are in, or some shit), or even the phishing attempts to get your passwords? These things are all obviously scams, and you have to be fairly uneducated, stupid or very careless to fall for these things.We know that some people that fall victim to frauds and con artists are nice little old ladies and people like that. Still, most people that fall victim to these things are at best naïve, and at worst, fucking idiots. Do you know how we think you solve almost all of this? You stop being naively trusting idiots. People don't just give you money. Tradesmen don't just turn up mysteriously (when they turn up at all - yeah, high quality jokes here). Think. Learn. Pay attention. People can stop almost all of this shit, by identifying it, and ignoring it.

What do our heavy drinking specialists have to say?

"Really not a problem, especially for humanity. If you fall for some idiot's scheme, then you are a bigger idiot. You should do drugs and die in some pathetic way."

*"The worst kind of drug dealer is the one that doesn't use; they just push substances onto others."**

"Emphasis on artists."

*What?

What is wrong the world today?

Part 8

Over Population

Stop having so many children. Or… if only there was some way to thin out humanities numbers…

What did our special experts have to say?

"Too many idiots breeding with other idiots, still not a big problem, other than the fact I'm not getting laid at all."

"The idiots are the figure heads with influence. It's the Justine Timberlakes etc who are dangerous. People go to their concerts and have their minds overrun and chant words like a religious gathering. They will do anything to see their figure head.Now in order to solve the problems such as Over Population, we must firstly control the minds of followers through a Collective Consciousness. The World Youth Day proved to the world that this exists, and it cannot be denied. Using the power of Collective Consciousness you have them take their own lives. Don't tell me this won't work. It worked before, don't forget 78' Jonestown "Revolutionary suicide", see."

"One situation where war is positive."

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Part 9

Natural Disasters

Oh! What an idea. That will do the trick nicely to thin out humanities numbers. What? Oh, the pamphlet is saying that natural disasters are a problem, not a solution. Ah, we see, it is just a coincidence that over population and natural disasters are next to each other. And there we were thinking it was something sensible. Silly us. Well, like we said, stop having so many children, that will help reduce the amount of people effected by natural disasters. Anyway, natural disasters solve themselves, right? Actually, your only sure fire way to avoid or stop natural disasters is via the supernatural, that or learning about them so that you can better understand and react to them. Strangely, we seem to recall that some people that believe in the supernatural (that includes god) actually claim that the supernatural agents that they follow or believe in, actually cause natural disasters. Hmmm.

What did our ultra-specialists have to say?

"Are natural- we have no control over them, and that's what scares us!"

"Fate of Fates - Natural Order - Predetermined Circumstance"

"Why don't the religious people of the world unite and fix this? Oh, what, your God doesn't answer your prayers and yet you pray often? At least science can warn us to run for the hills, stand on retards or push children into fire at the right time; leaving us relatively safe and able to procreate."

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Part 10

World Food Shortages

Yes, this is a real problem. Interestingly, we do produce enough food for everyone, its just the some people want and take more than their share. The shortages relate to 2 (two) factors, the cost and the distribution. If you can't figure out how to solve that, you probably deserve a harsh death (like having your head boiled off, or something similar). This is another very human problem, and it won't be going. Not any time soon. Humans don't really like change. They don't really like doing anything. Just keep going along with everything, right. Nice and easy does it. Got your blinkers on? Good.

What do our experts say?

"*Enjoy those KFC meals with the Sara Lee cheesecake deserts while they last because everything comes to an end.*"

"*There's not a food shortage, people are just too fussy and soft. All those dead people can be recycled.*"

"*Could be fixed if maggi two minute noodles became trading commodity.*"

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Part 11

Little Rain

And what a quaint way that is to describe it. No, we don't think they are talking about small drops of rain. Rather, we believe they are taking about reduced falls of rain, sometimes referred to as 'drought'. We could go on and on here about the use of the term "Little Rain" here, but that just wouldn't be very constructive, would it. One of humanities problems? Definitely a problem that humanity has to face. We are starting to get the distinct impression that the Christians that have distributed this pamphlet think that god is punishing mankind. Surely if god has direct influence on the affairs of man, then god has influence on the weather and how it manifests. If this is the case, then it can't be that agricultural areas have been increasingly pushed into areas where there isn't enough rain, where the miracle of irrigation is required. It can't be that people like to live in the places that are best suited for agriculture. Let's face it. If it doesn't rain in the city, it's not the end of the world. If it doesn't rain in the main centers of agriculture in any region, then that is a major problem. Further to this point, centralising all agriculture is just asking for trouble. Sure, we recognise that there are great benefits, but look at the problems. When a drought blights an area that is used for growing a crop, say for example, a fruit growing region, it leads to things like World Food Shortages, increased cost for food, farmers and local workers loosing their lively hood, etc. Is this funny? Well, yes, in that these are yet more human problems, caused and perpetuated by humans. Not necessarily the "little rain", or as we prefer to call it, drought; more specifically the problems associated in areas where drought is not actually uncommon, and situating major agriculture there, and the history of poor farming and irrigation practices employed in many of these regions. Reminds us of the Simpsons episode (Homer the Vigilante) where the townsfolk dig a deep hole, only to find themselves stuck at the bottom of the hole. The solution the Simpsons offer? "I know, we'll dig our way out!" Which is followed by the sublime, "No, no. Dig up, stupid." Maybe it's better to think about things before you dig yourself into a hole.

And our special experts, what do they think about "Little Rain"?

"*There will always be the same amount of water on earth, unless we send it into space.*"

"*It reminds me of a time when I was a councilor on a retreat and a student asked for a bathroom break and another demanded that they were thirsty. I replied, "Well that solves both of your problems, doesn't it?*"

And our specialist climate scientist said… "*What?*"

What is wrong the world today?

Part 12

Rising Sea Levels

Really? Even with the "little rain"? Oh, right, the "global warming" and that "ozone" stuff. Well, that being the case, we say that this is either one or both of two things. A case of getting out of the hole you dug; or, a case of picking your space more carefully. Sea levels on this planet (and most planets with seas that we are aware of) are in a constant, if slow, state of flux. Some say that sea levels may have moved as much as 100 meters (that's around 300 feet, for those of you that haven't experienced the enlightenment - ha ha, joking of course.) in either direction from the current levels. If sea levels were to rise by that kind of amount, it would leaves a huge percentage of inhabited and underwater. We say, bring it on, baby! All our smartest contributors live at altitude. Anyway, as a problem facing humanity? Sure thing. Oh no, woe is us. What on Earth can we do? Well, firstly, don't try and do anything. And those of you that don't believe in or follow the teachings of god (or whatever), had better smarten up, right now. Don't you see that you have no other option now? The sea levels are rising people! On that point, it's funny that it is usually conservative religious types that deny that any of mankind's activities are responsible for all these environmental issues. So it's nature is it? Do they mean god is doing it? Do they think that god is that kind of a bastard? We thought that old testament god was long gone. What? He's making a come back? Well, good on him. Well done. People do need a good kicking sometimes. One key thing here is learning. That and remembering the things that those before us have learn. Knowledge isn't a whiteboard to be wiped clean with spirits at the end of each lesson. Why don't we all just start burning books again. Oh, we're doing that too are we. Wonderful.

Our experts have a lot to say about rising sea levels, what did they say?

"*If Hawaii disappears, then it's fine with me.*"

"*Means all those with water-fronted properties are fucked. Suck shit you yuppie scum.*"

"*If its anything like Waterworld I'll take my own life before that happens. Maybe it's not all bad. I get to have sex with Jeanne Tripplehorn.*"

What is wrong the world today?

Part 13

Extinction of Plants and Animals

We know that many people care about this, but let's face it, it doesn't really effect most people at all. Sure, there's that affect that gets in the way, because people really do care. It's obvious that they care, because they use their credit cards to donate pittance to some organisation whilst they watch a documentary about the plight of something or other. People want to feel good about doing things to help alleviate the problems of the world. They just don't want to actually do anything. For example, since early in the 21st century, a call for action about fuel prices has been circulated and posted, as forwarded emails and forum posts and such like. They usually take the form of a supposedly foolproof plan. It works like this. Everybody has to stop buying fuel from such-and-such branded fuel suppliers. When everybody stops using these suppliers, such-and-such company will be forced to drop their price to stay in business. Then everyone can, when the price is low enough, buy the fuel from such-and-such branded suppliers, which will then lead to all the other fuel suppliers to drop their prices, just to remain competitive and stay in business. Isn't the logic beautiful. The problems, though, are many. The main ones are that each time the idea is circulated, the fuel supplier is different, and worst of all, it relies on a lot of people actually taking part. Which brings us to the purpose of this example. People are stupid and idealistic. They think that there are these simple things that they can do to solve problems. Maybe sometimes, but usually this is not the case. Really big changes are required, and people are scared of such things, and so would rather delude themselves about their options. In fact, often the actual solutions are not even considered an option. We don't want to change the way things are too much. So, between natural extinctions and people sitting on their hands whilst their actions and inaction assists extinction, we can expect it to continue. Do forget to wave politely as things disappear, and keep donating that money to help some species whilst you also consume products that hasten the very same species end. We love that.

What do our expert specialists say about the extinction of plants and animals?

"We're animals. I don't see how that's a problem; if we're dead, then we're dead, we're not going to care."

"It's all part of mother earth's ongoing cyclic scheme."

*"Triumph of life. Tabula Rasa. Nature versus Nurture. "To be no longer conditioned by a pair of opposites results in absolute freedom" - Mircea Eliade."**

*We were more puzzled than usual.

What is wrong the world today?

Part 14

Daily Disasters

Excuse us as we laugh into our hand.

Sorry about that. All the problems from World Food Shortages through to the one after this (People Losing Hope, if you didn't want to look ahead) are all listed in the wonderful pamphlet as "things [that] have gone from bad to worse". We can think of a few reasons why daily disasters may be increasing. We suggest population growth, increasing speed and industrialisation in society, as actual reasons the disasters are increasing. And we point out that, obviously, the perceived frequency of disasters is distorted by the sensationalised nature of the now globalised media. It is increasingly often that some headline grabs your attention, only for you to discover that it is from another country. Sorry, but daily disasters happen mainly to other people, and the are usually due to foolishness, stupidity, sloppiness of some person. Daily disasters have been around as long as people have been there to feel that it is some disaster. Choose the manner in which you want to live your life, and then deal with it. If you make consistently stupid decisions, you can expect us to laugh at you (if we are feeling kind), and to mock you (if we feel like we usually do). Best of luck, you stupid humans.

What do our experts think?

"A lot of the time, Daily Disasters are caused by stupid meat-bags called humans… A (stupid humans) + B (open world) = Daily Disasters."

"Yeah, we should aim to make them less regular, like fortnightly disasters. This would limit the effect they play on our lives and allow us to prepare for them limiting the destruction."

"Sob sob boo hoo."

What is wrong the world today?

Part 15

People Losing Hope

Well, surely that's a problem for those people that are losing hope. Perhaps people should be more realistic. If people choose to dance naively through their lives, thinking that everything is going to be fine because other people are taking care of things, well, we think that losing hope is the least of their problems. Due to legal advice, we can't even write here what we think should happen to these people. What are they losing hope about anyway? All the problems that humanity faces? Yeah, well, just give up then. You are a sorry species anyway. What about those people that don't lose hope, or those that didn't really have it in the first place? We say, you go, those people. We know that some hold a more realistic view of things, and that some are more thoughtful, considered and learned. The pamphlet claims to be written for "…people that hope for a better world and a better life…" (well, it does go on to say a world governed under god's leadership, which, it points out, is coming anyway). We think that people that hope for things should Fuck Off. Is that how you want to live your life, hoping for things? You need to do something. We think that excessive periods of doing nothing and hoping for the outcomes you want will generally lead to disappointment after disappointment, and can lead to the kind of fanatical mindsets that form radical militias which will enforce their views, willing to kill those that disagree or get in their way. Whilst that can all be so much fun, we think that realistically dealing with problems each day, with empathy and understanding for the positions of others, is probably a better option.

What do our bone-crunching specialists think?

"*Hope is the weak person's comforting blanket. Fuck them. If you survive on hope, I hope you get run over.*"

"*We all suffer. Just remember the world isn't against you, it just doesn't care.*"

"*…are rightfully doing so.*"

What is wrong the world today?

Part 16

Cosmic Comet or Large Asteroid

Some people think that comets probably brought the seeds of life to this planet. These people think this because of extensive research and studies. Either way, there is certainly strong evidence to support the idea that comets and asteroids have struck the planet before. Guess what? Life, as a rule, tends to go on. We suppose that essentially the same rant that we've used for the previous problems can be applied here. You are either getting the idea of what we are saying, or you are not. Further ranting and writing that we say Fuck Off won't change anything at this stage. So let's just talk about action heroes in hollywood (intentional lower case, which we've been using throughout this rant in cases where we don't believe the subject deserves a capital, despite the concerns of our spellchecker) movies. Bruce Willis, right. He can save us easy, and if not him, it could be any rough drilling team. Better still, if we are really lucky, the United States (see, we believe in the US) will have changed the constitution (but we don't believe in the constitution) and Arnold Schwarzenegger will be President. Once that happens, nothing will be allowed to threaten any free country on the planet. In fact, we think that Arnold Schwarzenegger could be the world's first freely elected global leader. He, or someone like him, will make sure everything is fine. We'll just sit on our hands, put our faith in Arnie, and hope for the best. What could go wrong? See, you feel safer already. Let's go to the pub.

What do our expert specialists think about Cosmic Comets and Large Asteroids?

"*Dream on! get real! you wish!*"

"*We should load up space ships and move to outer space colonies such as Mars only to find out that it was probably a better idea to stay on and face the comet than a race of technologically advance aliens who intend on enslaving the human race.*"

"*Well, we could all swear by our religious texts, that'll save us. Another option is to hold said books up and then, using the correct timing, deflect the comet away from us. Go holy books!!*"

What is wrong the world today?

Conclusion

What can we say?* We will close by saying fuck off three times. Each time we will increase the size of the font. The third time will all be in capital letters. And don't forget, we mean you.

Fuck Off

Fuck Off

FUCK OFF

And our experts generally agree.

*Actually, we could say that we were suprised that religious fundamentalists/fanatics weren't mentioned. But we didn't.